



Ultraviolet (UV)-Curable Coatings for Department of Defense (DoD) Applications

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Overview

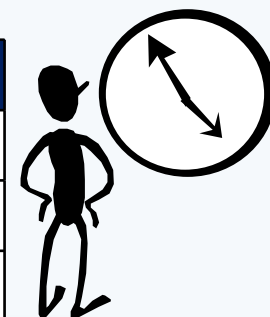
- Problem Statement
- Technology Review
- Air Force UV-Curable Coatings Program
 - Plans and Approach
 - Program Status and Results
 - Primers/One-Coats
 - Topcoats
 - Environmental Security Technology Certification Program (ESTCP)
 - Specialty Coatings Efforts
 - Lamp Technologies
 - The Future
- Summary
- Questions



Problem Statement

- Current USAF coatings require minimum 72 hour “dry to fly” time for polyurethane topcoat

| Full Repaint Benefits (F-16 Example) | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Application | Current Dry Time | Using UV Cure | Time Saved |
| Primer | 4 to 6 hours | 30 minutes to 1 hour | 3 to 5.5 hours |
| Topcoat | 16 to 24 hours | 30 minutes to 1 hour | 15 to 23.5 hours |
| Stencils | 72 hours | 30 minutes to 1 hour | 71 to 71.5 hours |
| Total possible savings per aircraft | | | 89 to 100.5 hours |

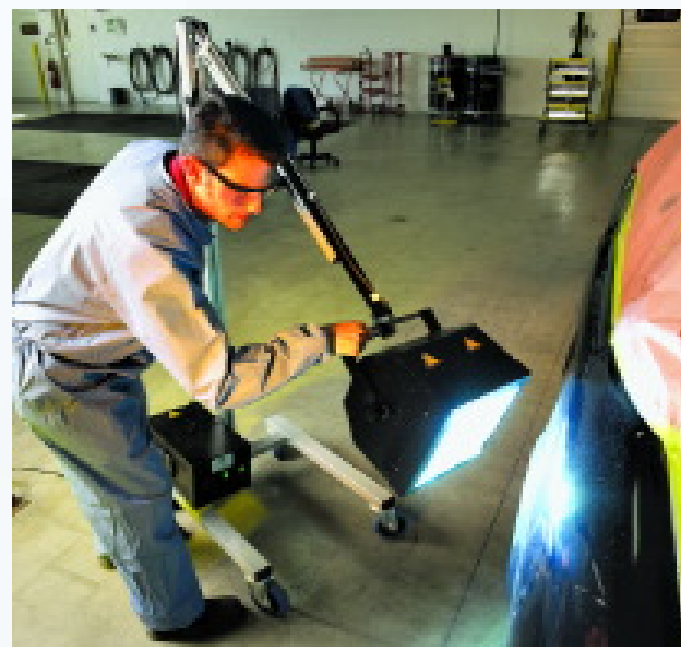


- Painting operations in depot and field work are a bottleneck in work flow
- Less time in maintenance = more availability in field
- Typical USAF coatings contain VOC of 340-420 g/L



Technology Maturity

- Multi-billion dollar industry with over 25 year history
 - Wood finishing
 - Printing
 - CD coatings
 - Automotive refinishing
- Automotive refinishing environments are similar to aerospace maintenance environments
 - Commercially available automotive lamps can be adapted to aerospace maintenance applications





Technology Description

Benefits

No isocyanates, no HAPs, no VOCs

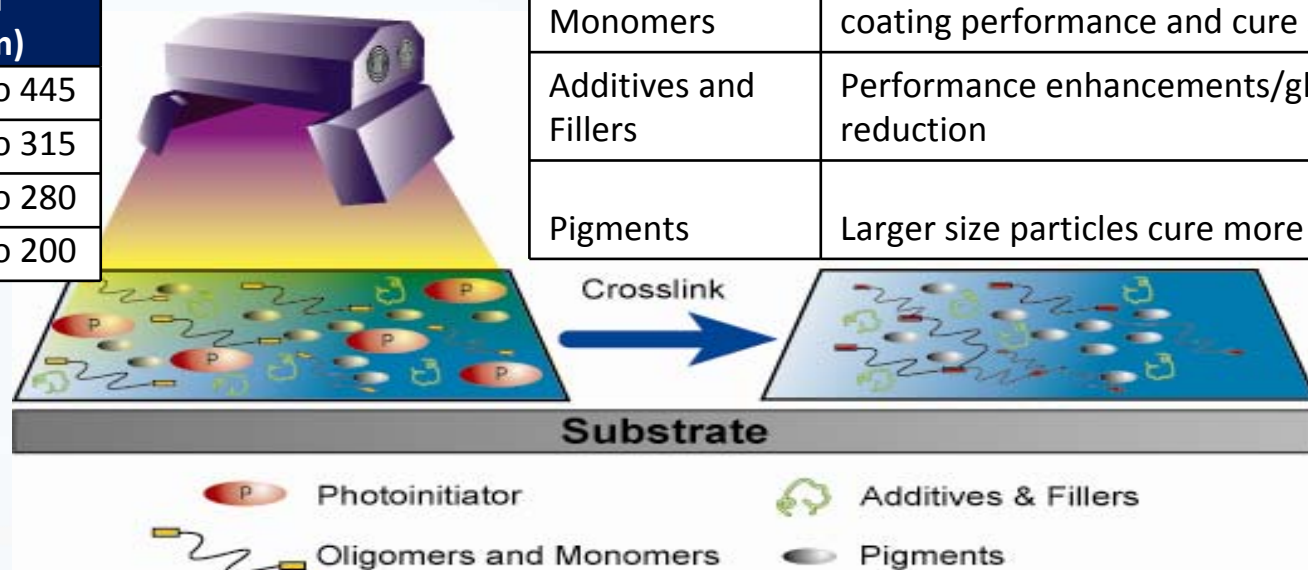
Cured in minutes

Apply by spray or brush

Single component, high solids

Wavelength in nanometers (nm)

| | |
|-----|------------|
| UVV | 400 to 445 |
| UVA | 400 to 315 |
| UVB | 315 to 280 |
| UVC | 280 to 200 |



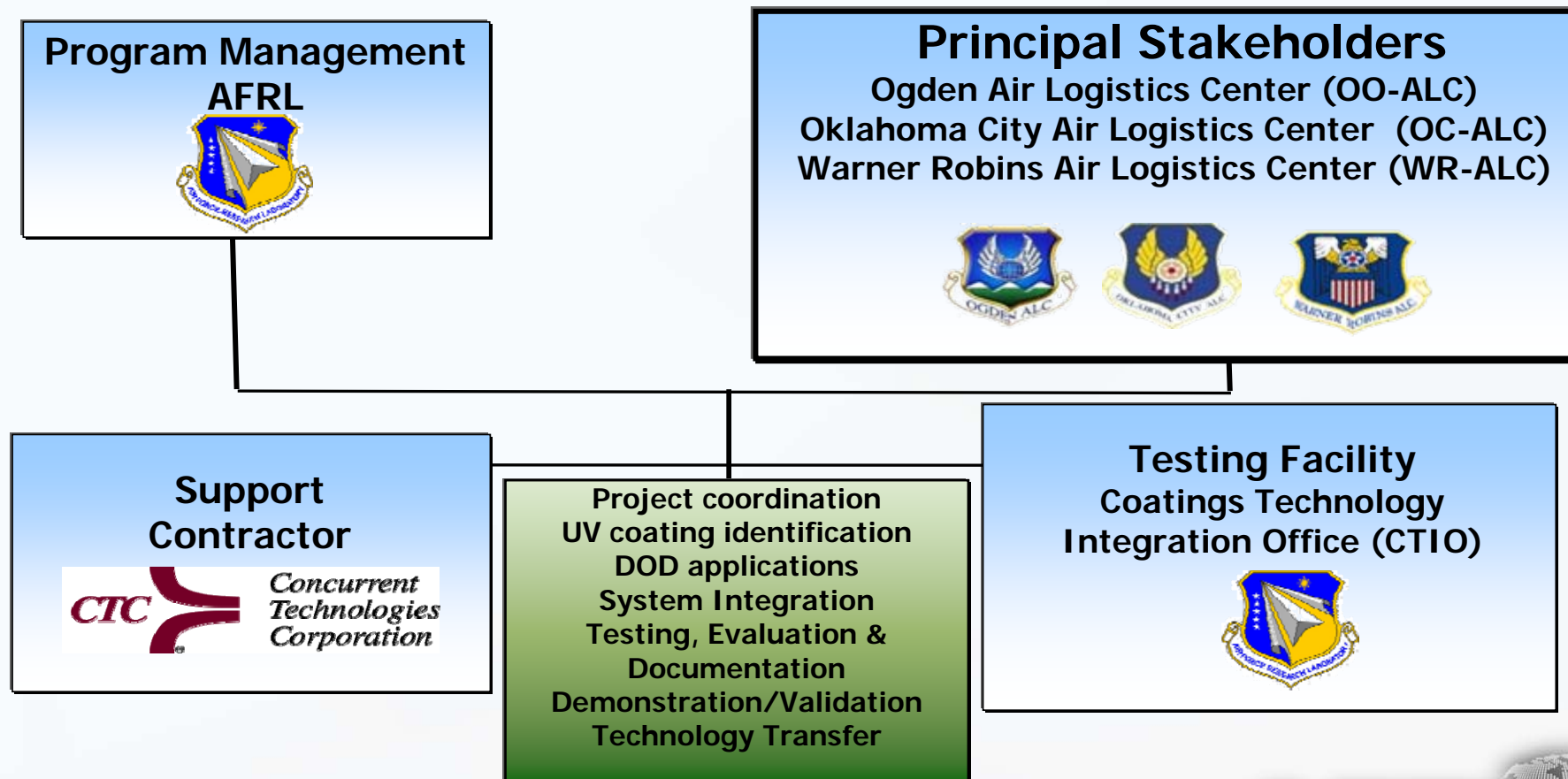
UV-curable Components

| Component | Description |
|-----------------------|--|
| Photoinitiators | Absorb specific frequencies of UV light and initiate polymerization |
| Oligomers | High molecular weight; control final cured film properties |
| Monomers | Diluents, adjust viscosity; contribute to coating performance and cure speed |
| Additives and Fillers | Performance enhancements/gloss reduction |
| Pigments | Larger size particles cure more easily |



Air Force UV-Curable Program

UV-Curable Technology Team





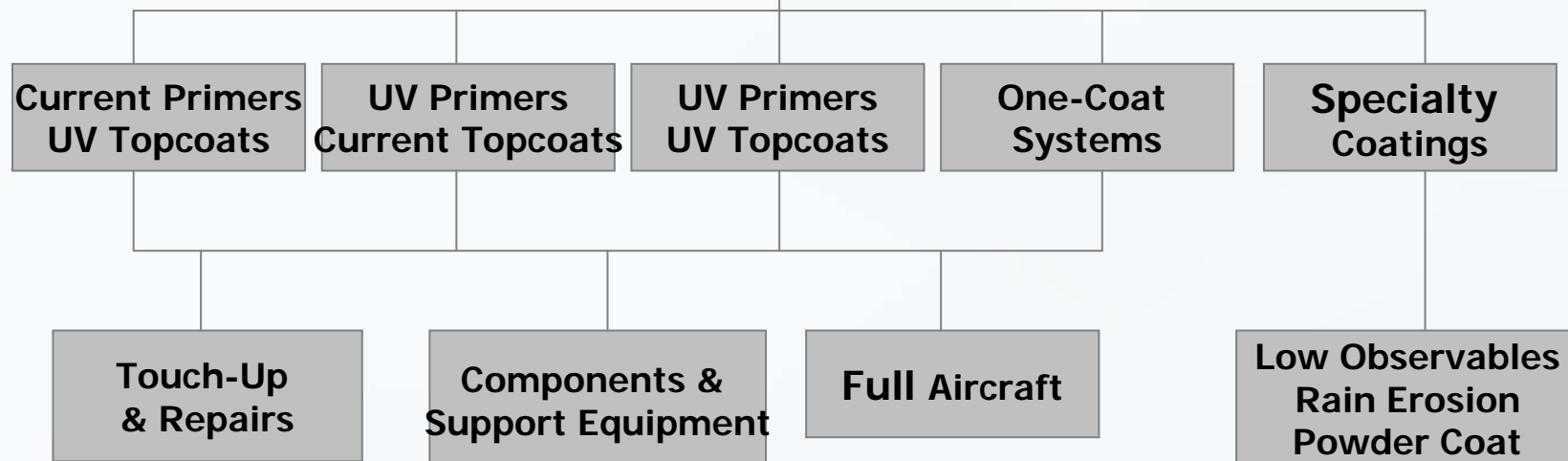
Plans and Approach

- Leverage efforts
 - DoD/USAF R&D Investments
 - Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR)
 - Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP)
 - Other
 - Industry and Education R&D
 - Commercial off-the-shelf technology
- Determine State of Industry
- Identify USAF Needs
- Transition UV-Curable Coating Technology



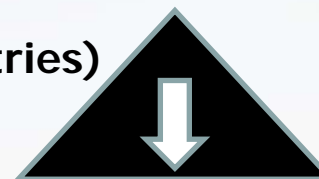
UV-Curable Coatings Strategy

UV-Curable Coatings



Manual (simple geometries)

Automated (Full Aircraft)





Site Surveys

USAF Depots Surveyed

- Oklahoma City (OC-ALC), Ogden (OO-ALC), and Warner Robins (WR-ALC) Air Logistics Centers
- Potential field applications also identified



Results

- Phased Approach
 - Manual applications/simple geometries/on and off-aircraft applications
 - Further coating development/manual and automated applications
 - Full aircraft applications
- Initial targets
 - Topcoats
 - Stencil coatings and off-aircraft components
 - UVA curing frequency



COTS Evaluation

- Open RFI sent to commercial UV-curable coating vendors
- Minimal requirements
 - Opaque coating
 - Identify as topcoat, primer, one coat, or topcoat/primer system
 - Test panels applied and cured by vendor
- Coatings to be tested at CTIO
- Screening Test Protocol (2 phases)



COTS Screening Phase One

| Primer | Topcoat | Code | Phase Two |
|--------------|-----------------------------|------|-----------|
| UV-cure | Deft 99-GY-001(Color 36173) | A | Yes |
| UV-cure | Deft 99-GY-001(Color 36173) | B | Yes |
| UV-cure | Deft 99-GY-001(Color 36173) | C | Yes |
| UV-cure | Deft 99-GY-001(Color 36173) | D | Yes |
| UV-cure | Deft 99-GY-001(Color 36173) | E | Yes |
| UV-cure | Deft 99-GY-001(Color 36173) | F | Yes |
| UV-cure | | G | Yes |
| UV-cure | | I | No |
| UV-cure | Deft 99-GY-001(Color 36173) | J | Yes |
| Deft 02-Y-40 | UV-cure | L | Yes |
| UV-cure | | M | Yes |
| Deft 02-Y-40 | UV-cure | N | Yes |

| Primer | Topcoat | Code | Phase Two |
|--------------|-----------------------------|------|-----------|
| Deft 02-Y-40 | UV-cure | O | No |
| UV-cure | Deft 99-GY-001(Color 36173) | P | Yes |
| UV-cure | Deft 99-GY-001(Color 36173) | Q | Yes |
| UV-cure | UV-cure | R | Yes |
| UV-cure | | XA | Yes |
| Deft 02-Y-40 | UV-cure | XB | No |
| UV-cure | | XC | Yes |
| UV-cure | | XD | Yes |
| Deft 02-Y-40 | UV-cure | XE | No |
| Deft 02-Y-40 | UV-cure | XF | No |
| Deft 02-Y-40 | UV-cure | XG | Yes |
| | | | |



COTS Phase One Tests

| Tests | Primers (9 tested) | Topcoats (7 tested) | One-Coats and Systems (7 tested) | Target Criteria |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--|---|
| Color | N/A | No Pass/Fail | No Pass/Fail | Opaque (no clear coats) |
| Gloss | N/A | No Pass/Fail | No Pass/Fail | Opaque (no clear coats) |
| Dry Film Thickness | No Pass/Fail | No Pass/Fail | No Pass/Fail | Per vendor; or 0.7-1.2 mils primer, 1.5-2.5 mils topcoat |
| Fluid Resistance | | | | |
| Passed Pencil hardness | All pass | All pass | All pass | B or harder; baseline for fluid resist |
| Passed Fluid Resistance (lube oil) | N/A | L, N, O, XE, XF, XG | G, XC, XD, | Soften no more than 1 pencil hardness |
| Adhesion | | | | |
| Passed Wet Tape | All pass | L, N, XG | G, M, R, XA, XC, XD | No peel; rate 4A or 5A |
| Passed Cross hatch | N/A | L, N, XE, XG | G, M, R, XC, XD | No peel; rate 4B or 5B |
| Flexibility | | | | |
| Passed Low Temp | A, B, C, D, E, F, J, P | L, N, XB, XG | G, M, XC, XD | No cracking or adhesion loss |
| Passed GE Impact | B, D, E, J, Q | N | G, I | Minimum 5% elongation |

Eighteen moved to Phase Two





COTS Phase Two Tests

| Phase Two Testing | | |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Phase Two Tests | Accelerated Weathering (Xenon Arc) | Salt Spray Resistance |
| Coatings Tested | All Topcoats, Systems, and One-Coats | All Primers, Systems, and One-Coats |
| Pass/Fail Criteria | Delta E color change less than 1 after 500 hours; Gloss after 500 hours: Type "gloss": Minimum 80 Type "semi-gloss": Minimum 15 Type "flat": Maximum 5 | No blistering, lifting, pitting, or corrosion after 2,000 hours of 5% salt spray |

| Coating Stack-up | Pass/Fail (w/ comments) | |
|------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | Accelerated Weathering | Salt Spray |
| Topcoat "L" | Pass Color Delta, gloss change >10 | N/A |
| Topcoat "N" | Failed Color Delta, gloss change <5 | N/A |
| System "M" | Failed Color Delta, gloss change <5 | Pass |
| System "R" | Pass (best performer for weathering) | Fail |
| Topcoat "XG" | Pass Color Delta, gloss change <6 | N/A |
| One-Coat "G" | Pass Color Delta, gloss change >10 | Fail |
| One-Coat "XA" | Failed (panels pulled after 100 hours) | Pass (best performer) |
| One-Coat "XC" | Failed (color and gloss change >20) | Fail |
| One-Coat "XD" | Failed (color and gloss change >20) | Fail |
| Primer "A" | N/A | Fail |
| Primer "B" | N/A | Fail |
| Primer "C" | N/A | Fail |
| Primer "D" | N/A | Fail |
| Primer "E" | N/A | Fail |
| Primer "F" | N/A | Fail |
| Primer "J" | N/A | Pass |
| Primer "P" | N/A | Pass |
| Primer "Q" | N/A | Fail |



Screening Test Conclusions

- COTS topcoats showed the most promise
 - Weather resistance and flexibility still key issues
- COTS primers and one-coats showed good corrosion protection potential
- All vendors provided results
- Round 2 Test Protocol Created
 - Apply/Cure at CTIO in UVA range
 - Protocol applies to topcoats, primers, one-coats, and systems
 - UV-cure topcoats began testing in Fall 2008
 - UV-cure primers, one-coats, and systems began testing in Spring 2009



Second Round

Primer, One-Coat, System Testing

Preliminary Results for Primers, One-coats, and UV-cure Systems

| System | Primer | Topcoat | GE Impact | Low Temp Flex | Initial Hardness | Color Match | Gloss Match | MEK Rub | Initial Adhesion | Minimal Heat Resistance | Optimal Heat Resistance | 30-Day Water |
|--------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------|---------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|---------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| A | Deft 02-Y-40 | Deft 03-GY-321 | Fail | Pass | HB | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| B | Deft 02-Y-40 | Deft 99-GY-001 | Fail | Pass | HB | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| G | None | UV-curable coating | Fail | Fail | B | Fail | Fail | Pass | Fail | Pass | Fail | Fail |
| E | None | UV-curable coating | Fail | Fail | < 6B | Fail | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass | Fail | Fail |
| I | None | UV-curable coating | Fail | Pass | 2H | Fail | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass | Fail | Fail |
| K | None | UV-curable coating | Fail | Pass | HB | Fail | Fail | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| D | UV-curable coating | UV-curable coating | Fail | Fail | F | Fail | Fail | Pass | Fail | Pass | Fail | Fail |
| C | UV-curable coating | UV-curable coating | Fail | Fail | < 6B | Fail | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass | Fail | Fail |
| F | UV-curable coating | UV-curable coating | Fail | Pass | F | Fail | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass | Fail | Pass |
| J | Deft 02-Y-40 | UV-curable coating | Fail | Pass | HB | Fail | Fail | Pass | Pass | Pass | Fail | Pass |
| M | Deft 02-Y-40 | UV-curable coating | Fail | Pass | HB | Fail | Fail | Pass | Fail | Pass | Fail | Pass |
| H | UV-curable coating | None | Pass | NR* | 4H | NR* | NR* | Pass | Pass | NR* | NR* | Pass |
| L | UV-curable coating | None | Fail | NR* | F | NR* | NR* | Pass | Pass | NR* | NR* | Fail |

*No requirement





Second Round

Primer, One-Coat, System Testing (cont.)

1000 Hour Filiform Corrosion

| System | Primer | Topcoat | Filiform Growth Description | Result |
|--------|--------------------|--------------------|--|--------|
| A | Deft 02-Y-40 | Deft 03-GY-321 | All growth less than 1/8 inch | Pass |
| B | Deft 02-Y-40 | Deft 99-GY-001 | All growth less than 1/8 inch | Pass |
| C | UV-curable coating | UV-curable coating | All growth less than 1/8 inch | Pass |
| D | UV-curable coating | UV-curable coating | All growth less than 1/8 inch | Pass |
| F | UV-curable coating | UV-curable coating | All growth less than 1/8 inch | Pass |
| J | Deft 02-Y-40 | UV-curable coating | All growth less than 1/8 inch | Pass |
| M | Deft 02-Y-40 | UV-curable coating | All growth less than 1/8 inch | Pass |
| E | None | UV-curable coating | All growth less than 1/8 inch | Pass |
| G | None | UV-curable coating | The majority of the growth was over 1/4 inch | Fail |
| I | None | UV-curable coating | All growth less than 1/8 inch | Pass |
| K | None | UV-curable coating | All growth less than 1/8 inch | Pass |
| H | UV-curable coating | None | All growth less than 1/8 inch | Pass |
| L | UV-curable coating | None | The majority of growth was less than 1/8 inch, with a few between 1/8 and 1/4 inch | Pass |



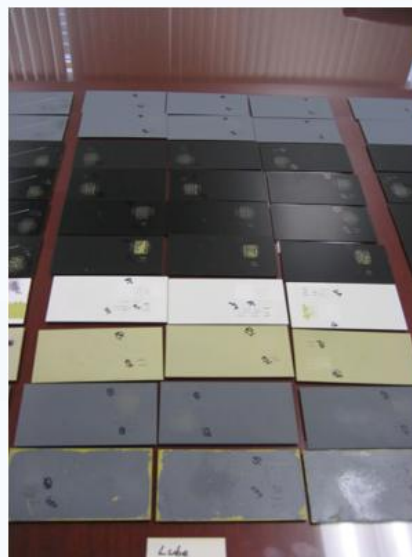
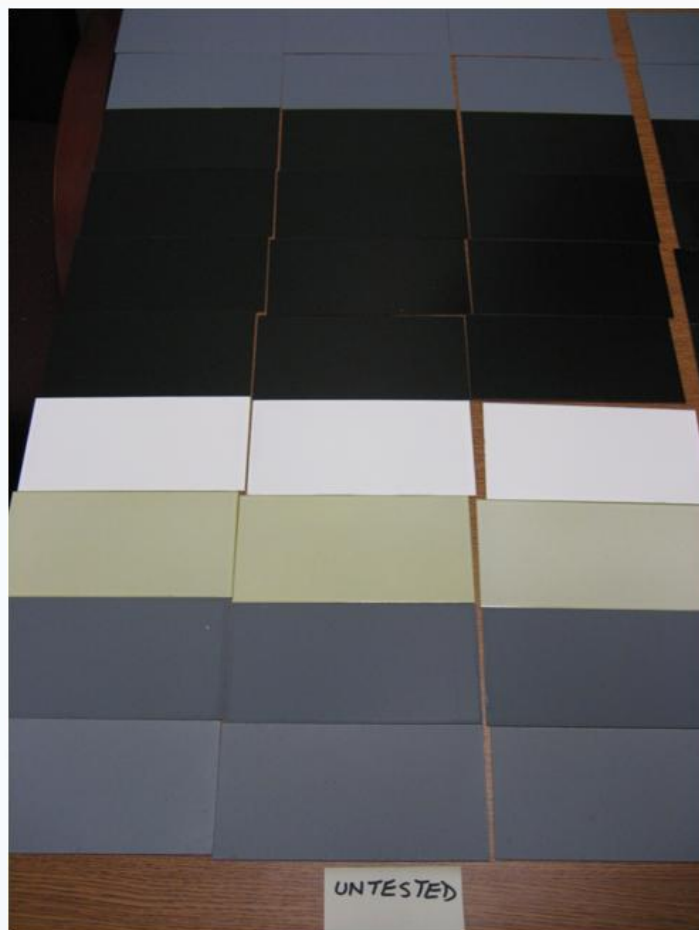
Second Round

Topcoat Testing

| CODE | Color | Identifier |
|------|----------------|--|
| X | 36173 Gray | Deft 03-GY-321 (Control corresponding to MIL-PRF-85285) |
| Y | 36173 Gray | Deft 99-GY-001 (control corresponding to "Advanced performance Topcoat") |
| A | Camo Black | Based on Screening "N" |
| B | Camo Black (1) | Based on Screening "N" |
| C | Camo Black (2) | Based on Screening "N" |
| D | Camo Black (3) | Based on Screening "N" |
| E | Gloss White | Based on Screening "G" |
| F | Gloss White | Based on Screening "O" |
| G | Camo Gray | Based on Screening "O" |
| H | Camo Gray | Based on Screening "G" |



Second Round Topcoat Test Panels





Second Round

Topcoat Test Results

| Coating System | Color | Color Match | Gloss Match | Wet Tape | Cross Hatch | Low Temp Flex | GE Impact | Pencil Hardness | Weathering (500-hrs) | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|----------|-------------|---------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| | | | | | | | | | Color Change | Gloss Change | Post Test Low Temp Flexibility | Post Test GE Impact |
| X (CONTROL) | Camo Gray 36173 | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass | Fail | HB | Pass | Pass | Pass | N/A |
| Y (CONTROL) | Camo Gray 36173 | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass | Fail | HB | Pass | Pass | Pass | N/A |
| A | Camo Black 37038 | Fail | Fail | Pass | Pass | Pass | Fail | F | Pass | N/A | Pass | N/A |
| B | Camo Black 37038 | Fail | Fail | Pass | Fail | Pass | Fail | HB | Pass | N/A | Pass | N/A |
| C | Camo Black 37038 | Fail | Fail | Pass | Pass | Pass | Fail | HB | Pass | N/A | Pass | N/A |
| D | Camo Black 37038 | Fail | Fail | Pass | Fail | Pass | Fail | HB | Fail | N/A | Pass | N/A |
| E | Gloss White 17925 | Fail | Fail | Fail | Fail | Pass | Fail | B | Pass | N/A | Fail | N/A |
| F | Gloss White 17925 | Fail | Fail | Pass | Fail | Pass | Fail | HB | Fail | N/A | Fail | N/A |
| G | Camo Gray 36173 | Fail | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass | Fail | 2B | Pass | Fail | Pass | N/A |
| H | Camo Gray 36173 | Fail | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass | Fail | < 6B | Pass | N/A | Pass | N/A |



Second Round

Topcoat Results (cont.)

| Coating System | Color | Cleanability | Heat Resistance (1-hr 250 F) | Opacity | Lube Oil Resistance | Hydraulic Fluid Resistance (24-hr) | Jet Fuel Resistance (7-day) |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------------------|---------|---------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| X (CONTROL) | Camo Gray 36173 | Fail | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| Y (CONTROL) | Camo Gray 36173 | Fail | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| A | Camo Black 37038 | Not required | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| B | Camo Black 37038 | Not required | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| C | Camo Black 37038 | Not required | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| D | Camo Black 37038 | Not required | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| E | Gloss White 17925 | Pass | Pass | Pass | Fail | Pass | Pass |
| F | Gloss White 17925 | Pass | Fail | Fail | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| G | Camo Gray 36173 | Fail | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| H | Camo Gray 36173 | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass |



Second Round

Topcoat Conclusions

- Coatings A, F, and G closest to DoD aerospace requirements for their colors
 - Proceed to optimize topcoats under follow-on Topcoat Project

| Color | FED-STD-595C Color Number | Applications |
|-------------|------------------------------|---|
| Camo Black | 37038 | Used in many stencil applications across platforms and services (including C-130) |
| Camo Gray | 36118 | F-16 markings |
| Camo Gray | 36173 | C-130 escape hatch, life raft cover |
| Gloss White | 17860 | Coast Guard White HH-60, HH-25 |
| Gloss White | 17925 | White used for Air Force and Navy (P-3 stencils, F-16 wheels) |



UV-Curable Topcoat Project

- Environmental Security Technology Certification Program (ESTCP) Project “UV-Curable Coatings for Aerospace Applications”
 - Demonstrate and evaluate UV-curable topcoats
 - Verify through laboratory and field testing that UV-curable topcoats can
 - Meet aerospace performance requirements
 - Reduce environmental burden
 - Reduce costs
 - Increase production throughput
- Joint Service Effort
 - Air Force: Ogden Air Logistics Center (OO-ALC)
 - Navy: Fleet Readiness Center Southeast (FRCSE)
 - Coast Guard: United States Coast Guard Aviation Logistics Center (USCG ALC)





Topcoat Project Organization



ESTCP Principal Investigator
Glenn Baker



Program Management

Tom Naguy
Randy Straw



CTC

Georgette Nelson, CTC Project Manager
Matthew Campbell, Technical Support
Steve Finley, Technical Support



CTIO Lab Testing
Corey Bliss



Principal Stakeholders

OO-ALC
OC-ALC
WR-ALC
FRCSE
USCG ALC

NAV  AIR



Coating Suppliers



Topcoat Technical Approach

Project Approach



Task III – Technology Transition

- Modify specifications and process documents
- Transition equipment to OO-ALC and train staff
- Compare performance versus baseline data
- Prepare Final Reports & Briefing

Task II – Demonstration/Validation

- Make final selection of coatings for dem/val (*in-progress*)
- Conduct lab testing and optimization (*in-progress*)
- Conduct field testing

Task I – Planning for Demonstration/Validation

- Draft Project Management Plan (PMP) (*complete*)
- Conduct Initial Cost-Benefit Analysis (ICBA) and Performance Baseline (*complete*)
- Draft Joint Test Protocol (JTP) (*complete*)
- Draft Demonstration Plan (*complete*)



Topcoat Targeted Applications

• OO-ALC

C-130

- Stenciling
- Escape hatches
- Life raft covers
- Prop tips

F-16

- Stenciling
- Wheels



• USCG ALC

HH-60

- Crew entry door
- External fuel tanks
- Fuel tank pylons

HU-25

- Panel covers
- Stenciling

• FRCSE

P-3

- Stenciling
- Wheels





Joint Test Protocol

| Appearance | |
|------------------|---|
| Color | ΔE of less than 1 from standard |
| Gloss | At 60°: ≥ 90 for gloss; ≤ 5 for flat; |
| Adhesion | |
| Wet Tape | No peel away; target rating of 4A or 5A |
| Cross Hatch | No peel away; target rating of 4B or 5B |
| Flexibility | |
| Low Temperature | No cracking or adhesion loss over 1 inch bend (gloss and semi-gloss) or 2 inch bend (flat) |
| GE Impact | Minimum of 40% elongation; no cracking, crazing, or loss of adhesion |
| Resistance | |
| Pencil Hardness | 2B or harder; initial hardness - data point for fluid resistance |
| Fluid Resistance | Softening no more than two (2) pencil hardness unit; no blistering or defects after exposure to lube oil, hydraulic fluid and JP-8 fuel |

| Resistance | |
|--|--|
| Accelerated Weathering (Color and Gloss) | Color change (ΔE) of less than 1 after 200 hours; Min gloss of 90 for gloss; max five (5) for flat |
| Heat Resistance | Color change (ΔE) of less than 1 after exposure to $250 \pm 5^\circ\text{F}$ for 60 minutes |
| Humidity Resistance | No blistering, softening, loss of adhesion or defects |
| Cleanability | Cleaning Efficiency $\geq 75\%$ |
| Repairability | |
| Scuff sand /Wet Tape | No peel away; target rating of 4A or 5A |
| Scuff sand /Cross Hatch | No peel away; target rating of 4B or 5B |
| Strippability | |
| Chemical Strippers | Removal of the coating to the substrate |
| Dry Media (blasting) | Removal of the coating to the substrate |

**Based on MIL-PRF-85285 / MIL-PRF-32239 and
input from subject matter experts**



Future Plans

- Demonstration Plan to be approved by stakeholders and ESTCP
- Selected vendors to conduct final reformulation and submit for testing to JTP at the CTIO
- Purchase portable lamp system for use during demonstration
- Conduct demonstrations at stakeholder sites
 - Collect additional cost and performance data to verify savings
 - Monitor field performance of UV-curable coatings for a year
- Transfer technology to primary stakeholder at OO-ALC



Specialty UV-Cure Coatings

- Rain Erosion Coatings
 - Current coating high VOCs/HAPs
 - Production burden
 - ✓ 12 hours apply; 5 to 7 days cure
 - ✓ Fluctuates with temperature and humidity
 - ✓ Cause bottlenecks in production
 - ✓ Often results in rework
 - One commercial source
 - Suggested minimum performance
 - ✓ 2000-3000 PSI tensile strength
 - ✓ 300%-500% elongation
 - Four potential UV-curable rain erosion suppliers identified
 - On-going

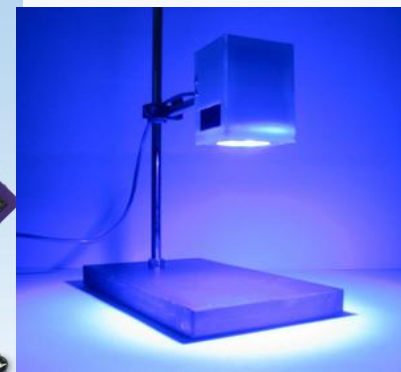




UV-Cure Lamp Technology

Three broad types of lamp technology

- Arc (electrode) lamp
 - Mature technology, wide use
 - Arc across electrodes excites mercury vapor
 - Simple, cost-effective
 - Electrode degradation and short bulb life are concerns
- Microwave (electrodeless) lamp
 - Microwave radiation excites mercury
 - Offers more reliable, longer lasting bulbs at higher cost
- LED Lamp
 - A semiconductor diode emits light
 - Manufactured to emit a specific, narrow optical spectrum
 - Very long life (50,000 – 100,000 hrs)
 - Instant on/off control and efficient energy conversion
 - High equipment costs, particularly for panels required for large area curing



UV Lamp systems work well with automation



The Future

- Depot and field level transition of UV-curable topcoats
- Primers, One-coats, and Systems
 - Preliminary data indicates corrosion protection
 - Reformulation and continued test and evaluation
 - Depot and field level transition
- Robotics
 - Full spectrum light manipulated by robot in enclosed chamber
 - Small robotic systems for specialty applications such as rain erosion coatings on radomes
 - Full aircraft paint and cure with the same robot
- Lamp technology development for aerospace applications



Summary

- DoD has dedicated significant funds and time to develop UV-curable coatings and transition to end users
- UV-curable coatings will significantly impact DoD maintenance processes
 - “Dry to fly” time reduction
 - Environmental benefits
 - Reduced man hours per painting event
- Multi-step technology transition program leading up to full scale aircraft painting

| Maintenance Benefits | | |
|--|--|--|
| Process | Current Practice | Using UV Cure |
| F-16 Maintenance | 4 days repair paint and stencil | 2 days repair paint and stencil |
| Off aircraft parts and support equipment | Paint, wait for part to dry 24 to 36 hours | Paint, put part into service or reassembly |



Contact Info

Environmental and Energy Quality Team

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Questions

